



Joseph Charles Bambera

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS SCRANTONENSIS



DECREE

In the Name of God. Amen.

WHEREAS, according to CIC c. 381 §1, a diocesan bishop exercises ordinary, proper, and immediate power entrusted to him for the exercise of governance for the good of the Christian Faithful and all of those entrusted to his pastoral care, and;

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Greeley, Pennsylvania, a secondary and subsidiary church of Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, Pennsylvania, has not been used for the celebration of the sacred liturgy in over ten years and is in considerable disrepair, and;

WHEREAS, the Parish community of Saint Ann in Shohola, in holding the assets and liabilities of maintenance and operating expenses for Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, a subsidiary church of Saint Ann Parish, has been unduly burdened with the buildings and costs it does not need and cannot reasonably use or afford, and;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Edward J. Casey, Pastor of Saint Ann Parish, in collaboration with the parish councils, inquired about the need and desire to relegate Sacred Heart of Jesus Church to profane but not sordid use, and desires to see the Saint Ann Parish move forward without the financial and other burdens of caring for Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, and;

WHEREAS, in fulfillment of the requirements of canon 51, the motivating reasons for the reduction of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church are:

1. Changing demographics of the community resulting in dwindling Mass attendance;
2. Diminishing number of faithful whose donations sustain the parish;
3. In holding the assets and liabilities of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Saint Ann Parish is burdened by debt;
4. Absence of funds external to the parish to assist in the maintenance of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church;

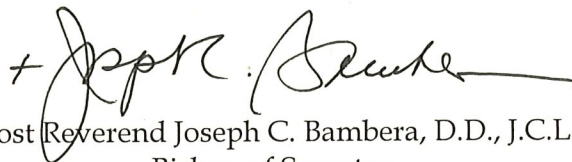
5. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church facility is in need of costly repairs due to extensive and repeated flooding from a nearby stream;
6. Charity and other assistance to the poor being neglected to preserve a sacred building;
7. Ready and effective assistance available to the Parish from the sale of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church;
8. The Presbyteral Council, the regional Episcopal Vicar, the Vicar Forane, and Saint Ann Parish's Pastor, Pastoral Council and Finance Council are all in favor of the reduction.

WHEREAS, as a grave cause according to the required norm of *CIC* c. 1222 §2, the cost to repair and maintain Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Greeley, Pennsylvania, would jeopardize the patrimonial condition of Saint Ann Parish, Shohola; and,

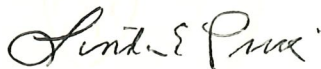
THEREFORE, having heard the Presbyteral Council and received its favorable recommendation, I hereby decree the reduction of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, located at 228 Route 590, Greeley, Pennsylvania, to profane but not sordid use in accord with the norm of canon 1222 §2 of the *Code of Canon Law*, effective with the closing Mass on June 16, 2023.

Furthermore, there are no individuals who can claim any rights over this church and I am confident that the good of souls will not be harmed by this decree.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Scranton on the 11th day of April in the Year of Our Lord, 2023.



Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



Linda E. Price, J.C.L.
Chancellor